

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00 FBO-02

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NIC-01 NSC-05 SP-02 OPR-01

PA-01 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-04 SCS-03 OC-05 /080 W
----- 008708

O R 281705Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5270

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU JJOI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BG

SUBJ: STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN BANGLADESH

1. STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN BANGLADESH AT MIDDAY ON DECEMBER 28. WHILE PROCLAMATION ISSUED IN NAME OF PRESIDENT MOHAMMADULLAH, ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY PRIMIN SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN.

2. UNDER TERMS ARTICLE 141A OF CONSTITUTION, EMERGENCY MAY BE PROCLAIMED WHEN "GRAVE EMERGENCY EXISTS IN WHICH SECURITY OF ECONOMIC LIFE OF BANGLADESH...THREATENED BY...INTERNAL DISTURBANCE"; DISTURBANCE NEED NOT EXIST BUT SIMPLY BE AN "IMMEDIATE DANGER". IN STATEMENT MADE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY, BLAME FOR COUNTRY'S PARLOUS STATE LAID ON COLLABORATORS, CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, EXTREMISTS, BLACK MARKETEERS AND SMUGGLERS. THEIR ACTS OF TERROR, SABOTAGE AND ARSON--WHICH RECEIVED PRIMARY EMPHASIS--OR ECONOMIC

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CRIMES MAKE NECESSARY DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY, STATEMENT SAID.

3. EXISTENCE OF EMERGENCY SUSPENDS SUCH RIGHTS AS EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAWS, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION AS WELL AS PROPERTY RIGHTS. IT MAY ALSO QUICKEN DRIFT TOWARD AUTHORITARIANISM WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE TO MUJIB.

4. BENGALLEES WE HAVE SEEN TODAY HAVE BEEN NEARLY UNANIMOUS IN BELIEF THAT MURDERS OF AWAMI LEAGUE FIGURES, INCLUDING ONE MP, DURING LAST SEVERAL DAYS TRIGGERED MUJIB'S ACTION. PROCLAMATION HAS, TO ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, BEEN ACCEPTED CALMLY. DACCA HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY NORMAL DURING FIRST HOURS OF THE NEW STATE OF EMERGENCY.

BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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